

OFFSHORE WIND FARMS — BINNINGUP

142. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the planned offshore wind farms in the Indian Ocean, 20 kilometres off Binningup, Geographe Bay, where the government intends to station 200 turbines.

- (1) Has there been a comprehensive scientific study to help understand how this proposal will affect marine life, including whale migration patterns, dolphin behaviour and ocean floor ecosystems?
- (2) Particularly given that the completion of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road will draw travellers away from Bunbury, what consideration has the government given to the effect of the proposed wind farms on tourism for the region?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Energy I provide the following answer.

- (1) The consultation process on offshore wind farms announced by Minister Bowen is a commonwealth-led process. While understanding any potential impacts on marine life is of critical importance, this will need to be addressed as part of the commonwealth consultation process.
- (2) Consultation with the tourism sector is expected to occur as part of the commonwealth consultation process.